



CLIMATEGENERATION

A WILL STEGER LEGACY

June 11, 2015

Dear Minneapolis City Council Member,

We at Climate Generation: A Will Steger Legacy have had our office in the Greenway Building in the East Phillips Neighborhood for the last decade. Our building would not be here if not for dedicated Phillips activist, Annie Young and neighbors who fought so hard to prevent a massive garbage transfer station expansion, which would have carried 280 trucks a day and 1,800 tons of solid waste within walking distance of a high school, restaurants and family housing.

Instead neighbors had the foresight to create a model for environmental and social justice. We are grateful to say that this dream of a better environment and job creation continues to thrive with our great community-building, filled with strong job-creating groups and powered by renewable energy. Thankfully the Minneapolis City Council withheld permits on this project for years and the project was ultimately rejected. But now the Phillips neighborhood is under siege again with the prospect of moving the Water Yard to this already burdened neighborhood.

Our organization's mission is to educate and empower people to engage in solutions to climate change and our vision is for a sustainable and equitable future for all. Racial equity and sustainable growth go hand in hand. While all people will feel the impacts of climate change, it will be traditionally marginalized communities that will face the biggest burden, and those who feel impacts of pollution and harmful emissions should be a part of determining the solutions in their own backyards.

We strongly urge you to listen to this community and that you vote against the staff recommendation to authorize the City of Minneapolis' Property Services division to begin negotiations with the owners of Roof Depot at 1860 28th Street East and 2717 Longfellow Avenue South for municipal acquisition and operations. We hope we can depend on you to follow the example of your previous council members by supporting the Phillips neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Nicole Rom, Executive Director

